

## W. C. T. U. Column.



Through the Courtesy of the REPRODUCED BY THE W. C. T. U. It is edited by MATHA J. FRANCIS, Local Press Superintendent, as appointed by the State Organizer, Mrs. L. L. Mance.

W. C. T. U. WATCHWORDS:  
ORGANIZE! EDUCATE! AGITATE!

### W. C. T. U. PRINCIPLES:

Total Abstinence; Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic; One Standard of Morals for Men and Women; Home Protection; Equal Suffrage; and the Teaching of Scientific Temperance in Public Schools.

### The Present Status of the Temperance Reform.

Comrades, let us rejoice that prohibition is to keep up its onward march! There will be occasional halts, but these will be as nothing compared with the great and ever greater advances! We refer not only to the progress in the United States, but also to the prohibition victories in the British Colonies, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and in Canada. The prohibition agitation in England is bringing good results and the situation in England from a prohibition standpoint was never so favorable and so encouraging as to-day. Iceland already has prohibition, Finland voted for it but the Czar of Russia holds it back, and Sweden has by national plebiscite declared in favor of prohibition by a vote of 1,845,249 to 16,471. This vote unmistakably shows that the Gothenberg, or Disinterested Management system, is not satisfactory even in the land of its origin and long operation. The effort to eliminate the liquor selling profit which is supposed to go to the liquor seller, and leave it to the town or state to make the profit, is not likely to work advantageously to the state or town, as has been amply proven in South Carolina where this system was adopted fifteen years ago. Out of forty-two counties of the state only six have retained the Dispensary system, and we confidently expect that in the very near future the entire state will adopt prohibition. Presumably the Gothenberg or Dispensary is the best form of license law, but all license laws are wrong in principle and so far as suppressing the sale of intoxicating liquors is concerned are unsuccessful in practice.

We condemn the sale of intoxicating drink in the saloon, the hotel bar, the drug store, the grocery store, the canteen, and the restaurant. We condemn its sale anywhere and everywhere, and we believe the Methodist Church was right when it rose as a body and spoke up in its general conference saying, "The liquor traffic cannot be licensed without sin!" If every one who professes to hate sin would live up to his pronouncement we should have national prohibition in very short order. Although cruelly delayed by avarice and appetite, we do not doubt that the order is on the way.

Those who are engaged either directly or indirectly in the liquor trade always are strenuously and desperately opposed to Prohibition. The larger the measure of prohibition the more strenuous the opposition of the liquor tribe. They are opposed to local option in license states, for it may lead to local prohibition; still more are they opposed to county option because it may lead to county prohibition and yet still more are they opposed to state-wide prohibition. This of itself furnishes ample proof that prohibition prohibits sufficiently to always hurt the liquor business.

There are many triumphs for the temperance cause which cannot be statistically enumerated. There is not a state, and scarcely a community where there has not been a temperance triumph, for the right and the truth are indestructible and wherever they stand they are surrounded by a troop of angels and God himself is keeping watch. The story of the recent struggles and achievements in the states I am leaving largely for the respective state presidents to relate from this platform. Of all the holy crusades, of all the sacrifices made for righteousness sake, of all the unselfish aspirations and endeavors of the past, not any according to their day and generation have exceeded in noble purpose, sublime pathos, and splendid heroism the work of our white ribbon comrades, to free their states from the bewildering, brutal, blighting, blasting curse of the legalized saloon. The state-wide prohibition flag still floats over Maine, Kansas, North Dakota, Georgia, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina Tennessee, and temperance victories in the other states during the year count not only on the side which makes for the righteousness of our nation. — Union Signal.

It would be like dynamite under

the saloon if, just where he is, the minister would begin active work against it; if, just where he is, the teacher would instruct his pupils; if, just where he is, the voter would dedicate his ballot to this movement; and so on, through the shining ranks of the great powers that make for righteousness, for father and mother to kindergarten toddlers, if each were each day doing what each could, just where he is. — Frances E. Willard.

## CASH IN DITCHES IS WELL INVESTED

DRAINAGE IS THE MOST PROFITABLE INVESTMENT KNOWN TO FARMERS.

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Southeast Missouri Leading in Modern Methods of Utilizing the In-measurable Fertile Flooded Lands of This State.

That money sunk into very unlovely and very muddy ditches is money well spent has been thoroughly proven by the progressive farmers of Missouri. Figures gathered by the Missouri Waterway Commission in its recently completed study of drainage conditions show that optimistic Missourians have put the vast sum of \$5,500,000 into drainage ditches, and this money has been returned to them with a profit of 1000 per cent in their proportions.

Ten years ago there were 3,750,000 acres of land in this state which were totally under water or useless because of excessive moisture. Southeast Missouri, rendered low by the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-12, was more extensively cursed with this excess of nature's greatest gift than any other part of the state.

Rivers in that territory were small and crooked and had but a slight fall, hence they were inadequate to carry off the continuously heavy rainfall of that region. The land continually resembled an overflowed street with the rainfall gaining steadily on the insufficient sewers; therefore it was but natural that Southeast Missourians became the pioneers in drainage work. By deepening and straightening their streams the flow-off gradually gained on the rainfall until there was no excess, and consequently no swampy lands.

Pemscot, the southern-most county of this state, leads in the drainage work. This progressive county has added to its assessable wealth and tillable area 230,898 acres of land. This work cost about \$380,000, or about \$1.50 per acre, and has increased the value of the reclaimed area from practically nothing to from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per acre. The total increased value is placed conservatively at \$4,500,000, or a return of more than 1,000 per cent on the original investment!

Dunklin county farmers have spurned the fabled oxen and have constructed thirteen drainage districts, totaling 160 miles in length and draining 160,000 acres, at a total cost of \$523,000. Cotton, wheat, corn and alfalfa have replaced mosquitoes and miasmatic dampness as the usual crops from these acres.

Mississippi county has snatched from the embrace of the swamps 200,000 acres, and has restored them to eager farmers, who have given good account of their stewardship. One hundred thousand acres in Stoddard county, 94,000 in Butler and 216,000 in Scott county have been, by engineering ingenuity, added to the wealth of the state, at a cost not exceeding \$3.00 per acre. These figures do not include the Little River drainage district—the largest in the world—which is now in course of construction, and which includes 500,000 acres of land lying in the counties of Cape Girardeau, Scott, Stoddard, Pemscot, Mississippi, Dunklin and New Madrid.

This vast area—larger than many boasted European principalities—is to be reclaimed at a cost of \$4,000,000, or \$8.00 per acre. The increased valuation of the land will not be less than \$25,000,000, and the increase in the annual crop output not less than \$12,000,000. This is a cash return in land values of 625 per cent, and an annual return from the investment of 300 per cent. The cost is higher per acre than in other drainage districts, because the problems met are more complicated and the work when completed will be more thorough. However, the work of educating people in these counties to the benefits of drainage has been well done, and the burden of \$8.00 per acre is gladly shouldered by the land owners.

In other counties drainage at a dearer rate has been accomplished. In Holt county 59,800 acres have been drained, at a cost of \$5.52 per acre; while the farmers of Marion county paid \$17.50 per acre to drain 10,000 acres.

St. Louis county, having the most valuable land in the state, because of its proximity to a large city and consequent availability for truck gardening, paid \$28,799 for draining 736 acres of land. This was at the rate of \$39.00 per acre, and no one has yet been heard to complain of this price, for the producing value of the district was increased \$330,000, or more than 100 per cent per annum.

Other counties in the state have harkened to the call of the world for more producing land, and have invested their money in ditch constructions, and it has netted them uniformly handsome returns. Atchison county has reclaimed 3,340 acres; Howard, 3,500; Lincoln, 4,800; Ray, 1,900, and St. Charles 4065.

Opportunity has made men penni

## Shakespeare's Limitations.

He could not construct plays or invent stories, though he selected good ones with considerable certainty. He often enriched the characters, seldom or never the incidents; even the characters he creates are usually sides of himself, or humorous masks without a soul. He must have heard of the statesman Burleigh often enough; but nowhere does he portray him; no hint in his works of Drake or Raleigh, or Elizabeth or Sidney. He has no care, either, for novelists; he never mentions forks or even tobacco or potatoes. A student by nature, if ever there was one, all intent, as he tells us, on bettering his mind, he passes through Oxford a hundred times and never mentions the schools; Oxford men had disgusted him with their alma mater. — Frank Harris in The Man Shakespeare.

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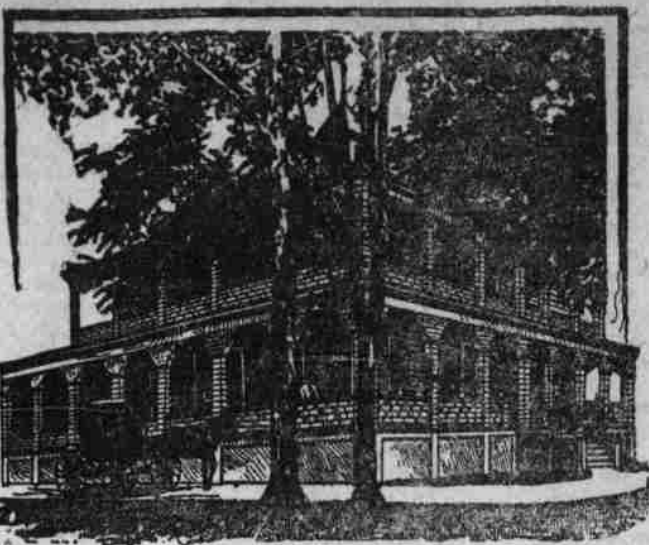
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